

CLAIMS

1 1. A handheld computer, comprising:
2 a housing having a first and second elongate accessory slots associated with a
3 left and right sides of the housing, respectively, the first and second accessory slots
4 capable of receiving and accommodating at least one removable accessory device.

1 2. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein the first and second
2 accessory slots partially enclose the accessory device along substantially a length of
3 the accessory device, and wherein a portion of the accessory device is exposed to an
4 exterior of the handheld computer along substantially the length of the accessory
5 device.

1 3. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein a bottom of the housing is
2 flared out and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1 4. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein the accessory slots are
2 substantially cylindrical.

1 5. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein the accessory device is a
2 stylus device.

1 6. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein the accessory device is a
2 cover device.

1 7. The handheld computer of claim 1, further comprising:
2 an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the external
3 port having at least one external port contact.

1 8. The handheld computer of claim 7, wherein the accessory device is an
2 input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external
3 port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory
4 slot.

1 9. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein the first and second
2 accessory slots each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices.

1 10. The handheld computer of claim 9, wherein the retaining device is a
2 notch which mates with a detent on the accessory device.

1 11. A handheld computer, comprising:
2 a housing including a midframe and a front and back shells, the midframe
3 being at least partially exposed to an exterior of the handheld computer, the housing
4 including a first and second elongate accessory slots associated with a left and right
5 sides of the housing, respectively, each accessory slot capable of accommodating and
6 at least partially enclosing an elongate accessory device along a substantial portion of
7 the length of the accessory device.

1 12. The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the first and second
2 elongate accessory slots are integral with the midframe.

1 13. The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein a bottom of the housing
2 is flared out and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1 14. The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the accessory slots are
2 substantially cylindrical.

1 15. The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the accessory device is a
2 stylus device.

1 16. The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the accessory device is a
2 cover device.

1 17. The handheld computer of claim 11, further comprising:

an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the external port having at least one external port contact.

18. The handheld computer of claim 17, wherein the accessory device is an input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory slot.

19. The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the first and second accessory slots each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices.

20. The handheld computer of claim 19, wherein the retaining device is a notch which mates with a detent on the accessory device.

21. A handheld computer, comprising:
a housing having a midframe, the midframe forming part of an exterior of the housing, the midframe having a first and second accessory slots associated with a left and right sides of the midframe, respectively, the first and second accessory slots being elongate and capable of receiving and accommodating at least one removable accessory device;
a front shell coupled to a front side of the midframe; and
a back shell coupled to a back side of the midframe.

22. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the first and second accessory slots partially enclose the accessory device along substantially a length of the accessory device, and wherein a portion of the accessory device is exposed to an exterior of the handheld computer along substantially the length of the accessory device

23. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein a bottom of the housing is flared out and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1 24. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the accessory slots are
2 substantially cylindrical.

1 25. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the accessory device is a
2 stylus device.

1 26. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the accessory device is a
2 cover device.

1 27. The handheld computer of claim 21, further comprising:
2 an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the external
3 port having at least one external port contact.

1 28. The handheld computer of claim 27, wherein the accessory device is an
2 input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external
3 port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory
4 slot.

1 29. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the first and second
2 accessory slots each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices.

1 30. The handheld computer of claim 29, wherein the retaining device is a
2 notch which mates with a detent on the accessory device.

1 31. A method of manufacturing a handheld computer, comprising:
2 providing a housing capable of substantially enclosing a plurality of
3 components;
4 forming a first elongate accessory slot on a left side of the housing; and
5 forming a second elongate accessory slot on a right side of the housing,
6 wherein the first and second accessory slots are capable of receiving and
7 accommodating at least one removable accessory device.

1 32. The method of claim 31, wherein the first and second accessory slots
2 partially enclose the accessory device along substantially an entire length of the
3 accessory device, and wherein a portion of the accessory device is exposed to an
4 exterior of the handheld computer along substantially the entire length of the
5 accessory device.

1 33. The method of claim 31, wherein a bottom of the housing is flared out
2 and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1 34. The method of claim 31, wherein the accessory slots are substantially
2 cylindrical.

1 35. The method of claim 31, wherein the accessory device is a stylus
2 device.

1 36. The method of claim 31, wherein the accessory device is a cover
2 device.

1 37. The method of claim 31, further comprising:
2 forming an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the
3 external port having at least one external port contact.

1 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the accessory device is an
2 input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external
3 port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory
4 slot.

1 39. The method of claim 31, wherein the first and second accessory slots
2 each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices. -

1 40. The method of claim 39, wherein the retaining device is a notch which
2 mates with a detent on the accessory device.